

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Hernando County

Florida · Brooksville · FIPS 12053 · Population 196,621 ·
Crosodo Index #1241*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Fla. Stat. §500.80	Great	250000	MEDIUM	2026-05-05

IMPORTANT – NOT LEGAL ADVICE

This report compiles publicly-available statutes, regulations, and county zoning rules into a research reference. It is **not legal advice** and is provided **without warranty** as to accuracy, completeness, or current applicability.

Cottage food law changes frequently. Counties may amend zoning, health departments may issue new permits, and state legislatures may update statutes after the publication date shown above.

Always verify rules directly with your state department of health/agriculture and your county health and planning offices before relying on them for any business or regulatory decision. Consult a licensed attorney for advice specific to your situation.

FLORIDA: HERNANDO COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1241* · FIPS 12053 · Brooksville

Hernando County

Population 196,621 · State baseline: Fla. Stat. §500.80 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Florida cottage food law (§500.80) permits home kitchen production of non-TCS foods. No registration, permit, or pre-operational inspection required. Annual sales cap: \$250,000. State preemption clause bars local restrictions. Hernando County is north of Tampa.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No explicit pet restriction in Florida cottage food statute.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Florida §500.80(6) preempts local cottage food restrictions. Hernando County and municipalities (Brooksville, Spring Hill area) may have general home occupation or business registration requirements. Compliance with home-based business rules under §559.955 required.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Inspections only upon written consumer complaint (§500.80(7)). No routine or pre-operational inspections.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Florida cottage food law (§500.80) permits home kitchen production of non-TCS foods. No registration, permit, or pre-operational inspection required. Annual sales cap: \$250,000. State preemption clause bars local restrictions. Hernando County is north of Tampa.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit pet restriction in Florida cottage food statute.
WATER SUPPLY	No water testing requirement under Florida cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Standard food safety practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS foods only. Standard safe storage practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Inspections only upon written consumer complaint (§500.80(7)). No routine or pre-operational inspections.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Florida §500.80(6) preempts local cottage food restrictions. Hernando County and municipalities (Brooksville, Spring Hill area) may have general home occupation or business registration requirements. Compliance with home-based business rules under §559.955 required.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Florida cottage food permits online sales, mail-order delivery, home pickup, events. \$250,000 annual cap. No wholesale.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No employee cap in Florida cottage food statute.

Relevant county code

Fla. Stat. §500.80; §559.955; Hernando County zoning for home occupation

RESEARCH NOTES

Florida state baseline applies. Hernando County (county seat: Brooksville) is north of Tampa. No county-specific URLs or overrides found. Florida’s cottage food framework is producer-friendly with strong state preemption.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.fdacs.gov/Business-Services/Food/Cottage-Foods>

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0500-0599/0500/Sections/0500.80.html

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/florida/hernando-county-discuss>

State context — Florida cottage food law

Hernando County’s rules sit on top of Florida’s state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE Fla. Stat. §500.80	ANNUAL SALES CAP 250000
REGISTRATION REQUIRED No	FOOD HANDLER CERT No
KITCHEN INSPECTION Upon-complaint	DIRECT SALES ONLY No
INDIRECT SALES Limited (see notes) — Florida prohibits wholesale sales but allows online, mail-order, and in-person sales including delivery to consumers; state law preempts local restrictions on cottage food operations.	

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Florida cottage food law report](#).

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0500-0599/0500/Sections/0500.80.html

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.fdacs.gov/Business-Services/Food/Cottage-Foods>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/florida/>

Questions?

Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Hernando County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

<https://crosodo.com/nb/florida/hernando-county-discuss>
